



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTOR

Chairman's Newsletter

Number 13. January, 1982.

GOODBYE TO A BANNER YEAR.

1981 saw ISASC break the 200-member barrier, and in a most impressive way. We're now at an all-time high of 221 members, and there's no end in sight. For those new to ISASC, September of 1982 will be our society's sixth anniversary, and to members who have been with us from the early years, our special thanks for your unflagging support. We look to 1982 to set new records and, in the months to come, for ISASC to continue to provide members, one and all, with the good fellowship that has been a large part of our purpose from the very beginning.

HELLO TO AN ELECTION YEAR.

In mid-1981, as we advised you last October, the membership-at-large elected directors for the three-year term starting January 1, 1982, which, in turn, obliged the directors to elect officers for that same period. Dutifully adhering to by-laws requirements, directors Bob Stein, Thomas Carley and Bob Miller held an official business meeting on January 1, 1982, and with the aid of proxies from directors Michael Crawforth and Gerard Houben, unanimously elected the following officers for the afore-mentioned three-year term: Bob Stein, President; Vice Presidents Thomas Carley, Michael Crawforth, Gerard Houben, and Robert Miller; Secretary/Treasurer Robert Miller. That matter having been attended to (and subsequently duly recorded in the

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corporate minute book), the meeting was adjourned, at which time officers Stein and Miller were taken on an escorted tour of the Carley collection (and some collection it is!) before saying goodbye and wishing the Carleys a pleasant month's vacation in sunny Florida. (A week later, Chicago's temperature plunged to 26° below zero, setting a new -- and most unwelcome -- record!)

ANOTHER OFFICIAL ACTION.

It seemed appropriate to take a customary business step and bond those ISASC officers who control our society's exchequer (especially now that we're nicely in the black), so recently we did just that. If you're a fiscal fuss-budget, you'll be comforted to know that Bob Stein and Bob Miller are presently bonded in the amount of \$10,000 (so if you hear of either of us going to Florida, you don't have to worry about whose money is paying for the trip!).

THANK YOU, MONSIEUR GACON.

Leave it to a new member to provide the answer to an old question. In the spring, '81 issue of EQM, member Lou Boogaard inquired if anyone knew the meaning of the initials, NB, that appear from time to time on scales. Lou's question was of more than casual interest to me, as several postal scales reposing in my collection for a good long time are so marked, and my usual infallible source, Michael Crawforth, could not throw any light on the matter. Lo and behold, new member Henri Gacon, whose very first EQM carried the question, answered it authoritatively. It seems that NB stands for Narcisse Briais, a French scalemaker from the 19th Century, and now that we know, we can expect Monsieur Crawforth to provide us in a matter of time with any additional information he's able to find out about Monsieur Briais.

IF YOU'RE NOT A MR. FIXIT. . .

. . .you may want to know about someone who is, and who's interested in serving our membership in some highly-specialized ways. He's Richard Wagner, chairman of the Craft Department and instructor in the jewelry and metal area at Maryland Institute College of Art.

Mr. Wagner offers various fixit skills (with which I'm acquainted first-hand), and advises me that he has facilities for working in the following techniques: (1) Casting; investment (lost wax) and sand casting; (2) Silver Soldering; (3) Welding; (4) Machining; (5) Forging; (6) Polishing; (7) Lacquering; (8) Plating. If you have any scales that need the benefit of such services, you can contact Mr. Wagner direct at 509 Overbrook Road, Baltimore, MD 21212 U.S.A.

GERMANY, HERE WE COME.

That is, if there's sufficient interest among our membership for convening there in May of this year. Utz Schmidt, following the practice established in past years by certain other members, has agreed to promote and organize a convention/symposium in Stuttgart, but first he's asking for an expression of interest, which accounts for the informational letter and questionnaire enclosed with this newsletter. Utz would appreciate your filling out and returning the questionnaire quickly, so he can determine well in advance whether enough members will attend to make it worthwhile. And to whet your appetite, he's also enclosing an article describing the Balances and Weights Museum in Balingen.

MISCELLANY.

Note the new designations on the masthead of the enclosed EQM. As of 1982, with this and future issues, the masthead will show the year, the issue number within the year, and the page numbers (at the same time dropping the seasonal designation). Also note on the first inside page the informational listing that includes names of current officers and EQM staff, along with other pertinent information.

Enclosed is the most recent list of everything in the way of catalogs, article reprints, etc. offered by ISASC. We suggest you take a few minutes to acquaint yourself with all that is available to enhance your hobby and expand your knowledge of metrology in general and scales in particular.

And while on that subject, Tod Carley advises us that there will be a slight delay in the production of the Triner catalog, but that it definitely will be mailed sometime in February. (We do appreciate your patience.)

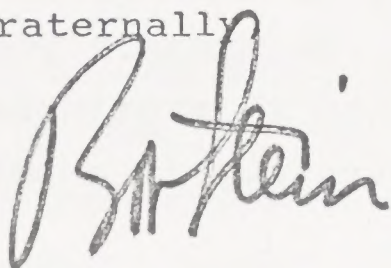
The latest organization to find EQM and other of our publications worthy of inclusion in its library is the prestigious Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Williamsburg, Virginia. The Foundation purchased all back issues of EQM along with several catalogs, books and articles, and placed an order for an EQM subscription (an offer extended only to museums, libraries, foundations, etc.)

When ISASC first went on a dues-paying basis, we were concerned about our ability to operate in a financially sound way, and in those early days we announced that we would gratefully accept contributions. Among the members who responded generously was Peter Di Cristofaro, and to this day he's continued to respond generously (without benefit of solicitation). This year he outdid himself and sent in \$100 with his dues notice! Thanks very much, Peter. We hereby declare you Booster of the Year.

Once again, my continuing thanks to ISASC's officers and the EQM editor team for their dedication to our society. The success we're enjoying today is directly attributable to their hard work, and the least I can do is acknowledge their efforts whenever the time comes for me to write a Chairman's Newsletter. (One important way you can acknowledge your appreciation is to pay your dues promptly and spare some of us the need to undertake a collection effort.)

In closing, here's an article I thought you'd enjoy reading.

Fraternally

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert Stein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Stein".

No justice on scale



Art Buchwald

I got on my scale the day after New Year, and discovered it was off by five pounds. Whereas I should have weighed 185 pounds, the scale, which had been guaranteed for 10 years, was wavering between 190 and 192.

"Someone has been playing around with this scale," I told my wife.

"Maybe one of the children jumped on it too hard," my wife said.

I urged her to try it, just to make sure I wasn't wrong.

"Not on your life," she said. "I never get on a scale after the holidays. It depresses me too much."

I called up Lester Shor. "What are you doing?" I asked him.

"Finishing up some cheesecake left over from the Sugar Bowl."

"Did you go to the Sugar Bowl?"

"No, but we had cheesecake and coffee at halftime because I once knew a kid who played for Georgia."

"DID YOU WEIGH yourself this morning?"

"I didn't get on the scale, but I kicked it once or twice."

"How come?"

"For the past few days I've been getting ridiculous readings. You know I've never gone over 195 pounds in my life. Well, the day after Christmas the pointer showed 201, and two days later 203 and yesterday 207."

"Where was the scale made?" I asked.

"Taiwan."

"That explains it. I heard there have been a lot of Chinese imports that were never properly adjusted."

"Let's go over to the Chevy Chase Racquet

Ball Club. They have a digital scale from Switzerland which doesn't gain or lose an ounce in a year," Lester said.

"Okay, I'll meet you there in an hour."

We met in the locker room. I was finishing up a piece of fruitcake and Lester was biting into a chocolate-covered tangerine.

I stepped on the scale first and it lit up at "201.6."

"That's insane," I said.

Lester got on the scale and it showed "209.4."

He demanded to see the manager, "Sir, I pay dues and the least I can expect for my money is an accurate weight reading."

The manager stood on the scale and it showed "145.2."

"It seems all right to me," he said. "That's what I weighed last week."

"What else could the man say?" I told Lester later as we stopped to have a pizza. "If he admitted the scale was off, his entire health club operation would be threatened."

LESTER NODDED his head, "There is no truth in scales any more. Even the ones made in Switzerland lie."

"The worst ones are located in doctors' offices," I said. "All of those are at least three pounds off."

"You game for a dish of frozen yogurt?" I asked him.

"Why not? If you're not going to get a square deal from a scale there is no sense starving yourself all year long."

Rosenthal came by with a deep dish of cherry pie.

"Trouble at home?" Lester asked him.

"Yeh, I weighed myself this morning and my wife took the scale's word against mine."

"If she did that to me," Lester said, looking at the cherry pie, "I would have put whipped cream and nuts on top."

